

Parents Right-to-Know Teacher and Paraprofessional Provisions *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*

The *No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001*, Pub. L. No. 107-110, has strong provisions that support parents' right-to-know. Two main provisions of NCLB are important for districts to implement immediately.

Annual Notice to Parents

Title I of NCLB requires local educational agencies to notify parents of children in Title I schools at the beginning of each school year, their right to request information regarding the professional qualifications of the students' classroom teachers and any paraprofessionals providing support to the child. "This notice must be provided in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand." No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 § 1111 (h) (6)(C). The district must respond to such requests in a timely manner. Pursuant to § 1111 (h)(6)(A) of NCLB, the information that the district is required to provide, at a minimum, to parents includes:

- (i) Whether or the teacher has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- (ii) Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived.
- (iii) The baccalaureate degree major the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher, and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- (iv) Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Special Notice to Parents When Teacher Does Not Meet Qualifications

Title I schools are responsible for providing "timely notice that the parent's child has been assigned, or has been taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by, a teacher who is not highly qualified." No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, Pub. L. No. 107-110 § 1111(h)(6)(B). Pursuant to § 1111 (h) (6)(C) of NCLB, this notice must also be provided in an understandable and uniform format, and to the extent practicable, provided in a language that the parents can understand.

For further information regarding a specific teacher's qualifications, school systems may refer parents to the Tennessee Department of Education, Teacher Licensing Web Site: http://www.state.tn.us/education/lic_home.htm.